

Application No. 09/636,286

RD-27791

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 to 5, 8 to 9 and 20 and 22 to 31 are pending.

Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Blankenship et al. and claims 1 and 4 to 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dietzsch et al.; is appreciated.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22 to 23, 27 and 29 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Applicant's prior art teaching" and Palmquist.

Claim 3 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 3. The amendment should overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 1. Claims 4, 5 and 9 depend from claim 1. The amendment should overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of these claims as well.

Claim 21 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Independent claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 21. The amendment should overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 20. Claims 22 to 23, 27 and 29 to 30 depend from claim 20. The amendment should overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of these claims as well.

The rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22 to 23, 27 and 29 to 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Applicant's prior art teaching" and Palmquist should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3 to 5, 8 to 9 and 20 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 8, 20, 27 to 28 and 31 have been amended to overcome the indicated antecedent basis and grouping basis rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

As to the rejection of claims 29 to 30, the references to "fused SiO<sub>2</sub> of claims 29 to 30 are references to "refractory metal content" types of the generic SiO<sub>2</sub> material of claim 20. The indefinite article "a" is correct.

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The rejection of claims 1, 3 to 5, 8 to 9 and 20 to 31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary in order to place this application in condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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